



Date: January 14, 2005
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: Weekly Update Ending January 14, 2005

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending January 14, 2005 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Storm Update

City Manager

Costs to the City as a result of last week's rainstorms are estimated at \$3 million. Los Angeles County has obtained a State Declaration of Emergency, which will enable the City to apply for State funding. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Fire

An Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) team assisted in the rescue of victims at the La Conchita landslide in Ventura County. City Firefighters played a key role in searching for victims and were a part of a massive regional and state response to the disaster.

Due to the severe storms that moved into the Long Beach area, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated to a Level 1 on Friday, January 7 to coordinate City resources responding city-wide to the wind, flooding and other storm related incidents. The EOC was also activated on a partial basis Saturday, January 8 and Sunday, January 9.

Police

In an effort to improve communication between the Police and Fire Departments at the Emergency Communication Operations Center, a monthly divisional newsletter will be produced. The in-house newsletter is one of several methods implemented to bridge the communication units of the two Departments now working in one center.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Storm Update

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

The record rainstorms caused serious problems on five golf courses. The back-to-back storms resulted in approximately 40 trees blown down or blown apart. Some of the fallen trees seriously damaged sections of the chain link fences. The saturated soil resulted in deep areas of standing water throughout fairways and sand bunkers. American Golf has estimated the total value of the property damage, including all of the 50-foot poles and netting destroyed on the Heartwell driving range, and lost revenue, to be close to \$1 million.

The El Dorado Nature Center was closed early in the week due to saturated soils, flooded trails, and overflowing lake and stream banks.

A series of astronomical high tides in combination with the storms made it difficult to protect peninsula property. Staff worked throughout the storm to repair sand berms on the peninsula area and in front of the lifeguard headquarters building at the Junipero beach parking lot. With an incredible effort staff, there was no water damage to property during this tide and storm period.

Queensway Bay staff was able to rig a temporary working debris boom at Rainbow Harbor to keep the majority of the debris from entering the bay.

Staff completed 49 roof repairs. The repairs ranged from simple patches to replacing parts of roofs uncovered by heavy winds.

Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau

Clarion Associates gave an update on the Independent Study of Redevelopment in Long Beach on January 10. They reviewed the work they have begun and provided an initial public participation plan which will include a new Independent Study Hotline, website and community meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Health and Human Services

David Hillman and Leonard Adams, staff of DHHS' Role of Men Program, have been selected to be Grand Marshals in this **Saturday's** Martin Luther King Day Parade.

The Homeless Services Program, with the help of volunteers, will conduct the Homeless Census 2005 on **January 27**. Volunteers are still needed. The orientation is one hour long and will provide an overview of the activities for the day of the count. Please call Susan Price, Homeless Services Coordinator at 570-4003.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Library Services

The Information Center for People with Disabilities (ICPD) will expand its hours starting January 15, thanks to the generosity and commitment of Library volunteers. The Center will now be open from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday - Saturday, thereby making it accessible 12 more hours per week. This has been a goal since the Center opened in October 2003.

Community Development, Housing Services Bureau

In response to requests from the community, Housing Services Bureau is conducting a special first-time homebuyer seminar in Spanish on **February 5** at Caesar Chavez Park. The next regularly scheduled first-time homebuyer seminar will be held on **January 29** at Silverado Park.

Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau

A community Housing Rights Forum will take place on **Monday, January 24** at 6:30 p.m. at the Willmore Community Police Center, 910 Daisy Avenue. Topics include redevelopment projects, relocation assistance, City housing programs and tenant rights. The meeting will be conducted in Spanish with translation to English.

Public Works, Traffic and Transportation

Dairy Neighborhood Traffic Circulation and Safety Enhancements Study: A comprehensive traffic study to evaluate the feasibility of converting several streets with relatively narrow width within the area bounded by Long Beach Blvd., Del Amo Boulevard, Atlantic Avenue. and South Street from their current two-way operation to one-way operations. A neighborhood meeting regarding this effort is scheduled for **January 25** at Jane Addams Elementary School. The consultant will be presenting various strategies to address issues raised by the attendees of the initial neighborhood meeting held on September 28, 2004.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire Department

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,283 emergency calls for service: 179 calls for fires of which 25 involved structures. It also responded to 706 emergency medical calls, of which 516 required paramedics.

Police

Mandatory training on Weapons of Mass Destruction for all sworn personnel began this week. Officers were trained on many subjects, including the decontamination process for first responders.

Citywide, police officers responded to 772 priority one, 1,661 priority two and 10,378 calls for service for a total 12,811 calls for service. Citywide, police officers made 290 arrests and conducted 79 field interviews.

PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)

Police

During the course of a police investigation at Santa Fe Avenue and Willow Street, officers arrested three suspects involved in a no hit shooting earlier in the day. In a search of an apartment, two guns and body armor were found.

A police recruit orientation was conducted last weekend with 170 applicants moving forward to the next level of the process. An additional orientation is scheduled for this weekend.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Public Works, Traffic and Transportation

The following is a status report on completed and ongoing traffic improvement projects:

The Anaheim Street Transportation Improvements Project is currently under construction, which includes traffic signal installation and upgrades, enhanced bus stops with associated storm drain modifications and streetscape enhancements, and fiber-optic communications inter-tie installation. A series of community workshops for this project will take place during the next two months.

Metro Blue Line Mitigation, Train Signal and Train Warning Sign Project: Construction of the northbound left-turn lane at the Long Beach Boulevard at 4th Street intersection is complete. The design for the curb return modification at the southeast corner of the Pacific Avenue at 1st Street intersection is complete. Nearly all "T" train signals along the Metro Blue Line route have been replaced with "bar" signals. Also, the static "train" signs at signalized intersections along the Metro Blue Line route have been replaced with light-emitting diode (LED) dynamic train warning signs. Implementation of rail transit priority along Long Beach Boulevard and the southbound train hold at the Wardlow Station is also under way. A contract has been awarded and construction will commence soon for the installation of a new traffic signal and crosswalk at the Long Beach Boulevard at 12th Street intersection.

Customized Historic District Street Name Signs: The retrofit of street name signs with customized historic district street name signs in all participating historic districts within the city is complete.

2nd Street Transportation Enhancements Study: The preparation of a study is under way to evaluate various concepts to enhance traffic safety on 2nd Street through Naples by "calming" traffic through either the implementation of reverse angled parking or the construction of a bike path, or a combination thereof. The study could potentially be expanded to include other concepts to be evaluated, a larger study area and additional stakeholder groups. Community meetings will be held with the Naples Business and Business Improvement Associations over the next several months to gather input and to present the results of the concept evaluations.

NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Public Works, Traffic and Transportation

PCH at 2nd Street Widening Project: The design and environmental studies is underway for the widening of PCH north of 2nd Street to provide additional southbound left-turn and right-turn lanes on the southbound PCH approach to this intersection. The purpose of this project is to alleviate congestion at this intersection, which is among the heaviest-traveled intersections in the city with a volume of nearly 70,000 vehicles per day.

Staff replaced signal poles or signal cabinets that had been knocked down at the following locations:

Temple/Spring
Elm/7th Street
Cherry/Broadway
Junipero/Cherry
Carrack/Pier A

MLK/Anaheim
MLK/7th Street
Butlet/Artesia
Los Coyotes/Parkcrest

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

More than 120 Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP) alumni, guests and City staff attended the 7th Annual Alumni Reunion Dinner at the Alpert Jewish Community Center on January 10. The dinner kicked off the Class of 2005 recruitment and provided an opportunity for alumni to network with each other. Applications for NLP are available now and the application deadline is February 25. Training will begin on March 31. For more information, please contact Marcos Lopez of the Neighborhood Services Bureau at (562) 570-1010 or Marcos_Lopez@longbeach.gov.

Library Services

The Main Library Children's Department hosted a special story time on January 6 for 60 second-graders, their teachers and interested parents from the new Caesar Chavez Elementary School. A cast member from Disney On Ice's production of Monsters, Inc. read the storybook version of Monsters, Inc. to the children. Children were also greeted by the production's character, Sully, and had their pictures taken. The Disney On Ice company provided each child a free ticket to the show at the Long Beach Arena.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

At Rotary Centennial Park, construction work was re-commenced after the rains. Trenched areas were pumped dry so that work could be continued on block and open fencing, and underground wiring for electrical connections.

NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

Accessibility improvements continued at Pan American Park gymnasium, Whaley Park social hall, Mothers Beach, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, Marine Bureau administration building restroom, and at Marina Vista Park. A construction bidding conference was held for work at the Department's administration building in El Dorado Park. Accessibility improvements to the exterior of the recreation center building were completed at Stearns Champions Park, including walkway repairs, playground improvements and accessible picnic tables.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

Work on a joint volunteer program with the Aquarium of the Pacific is continuing. A wetland and watershed study at the Colorado Lagoon and non-point source pollution are the focus of the new partnerships education program.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

Staff is continuing preparation for the Martin Luther King Day Parade.

Joan of Arcadia, with a cast and crew of 150, was filmed on January 14 at 2320 E. First Street.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

The Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 3,253 work orders, which included 1,027 gas service turn-on orders and 807 gas service turn-off orders. The work orders also included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, verifying read orders, and 157-meter maintenance and billing-related orders. Gas Services responded to 158 customer gas emergency calls for service and Gas Dispatch answered 967 gas emergency related telephone calls.

Public Works, Traffic and Transportation

The following is a status report for projects completed from December 31 to January 7:

- Staff upgraded signs, installed legends and re-stripped the I-710 from 6th Street to the Shoemaker Bridge.
- Staff upgraded signal poles at Golden/Willow, Santa Fe/Willard, Studebaker/I-405 and Atlantic/Del Amo.
- Staff supported filming along Shoreline Drive and construction activity for Anaheim Street Transportation Project.
- Staff re-stripped Pacific Avenue from Ocean Boulevard to Pacific Coast Highway, and Pacific Place from Wardlow to the I-710.
- Staff installed signs for District N preferential parking district.
- Staff collected, counted and deposited \$348,590 in parking meter revenue for the quarter ending December 2004.

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